



STORY 51: GOLDFISH

*Rakugo Supervision: Keiki Hayashiya



STORY BY YUKI SUENAGA

TRANSLATION: STEPHEN PAUL

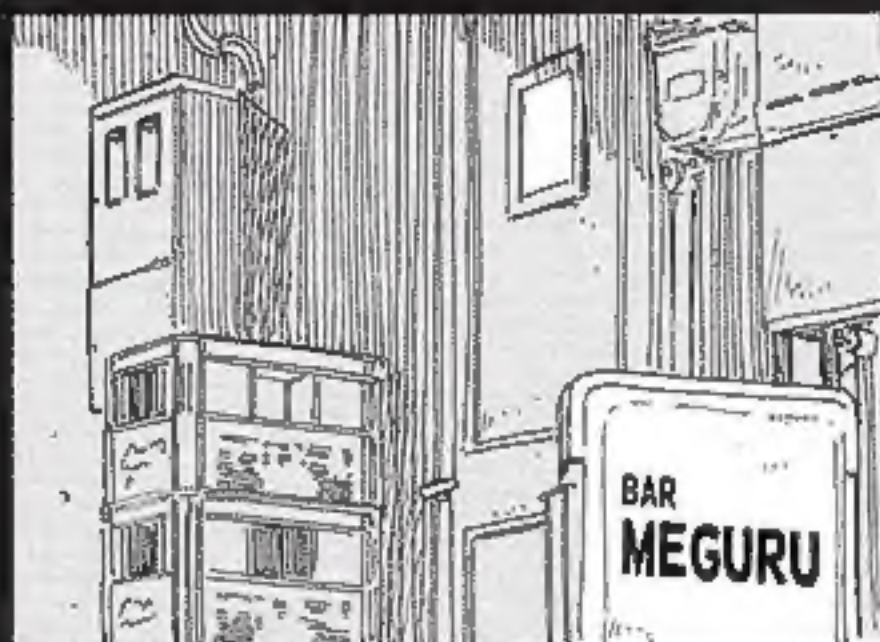
ART BY TAKAMASA MOUE

LETTERING: SNIR AHARON



I'LL HAVE A
GOLDFISH.

*A unique cocktail of *shochu* with *shiso* leaf and a whole red pepper.

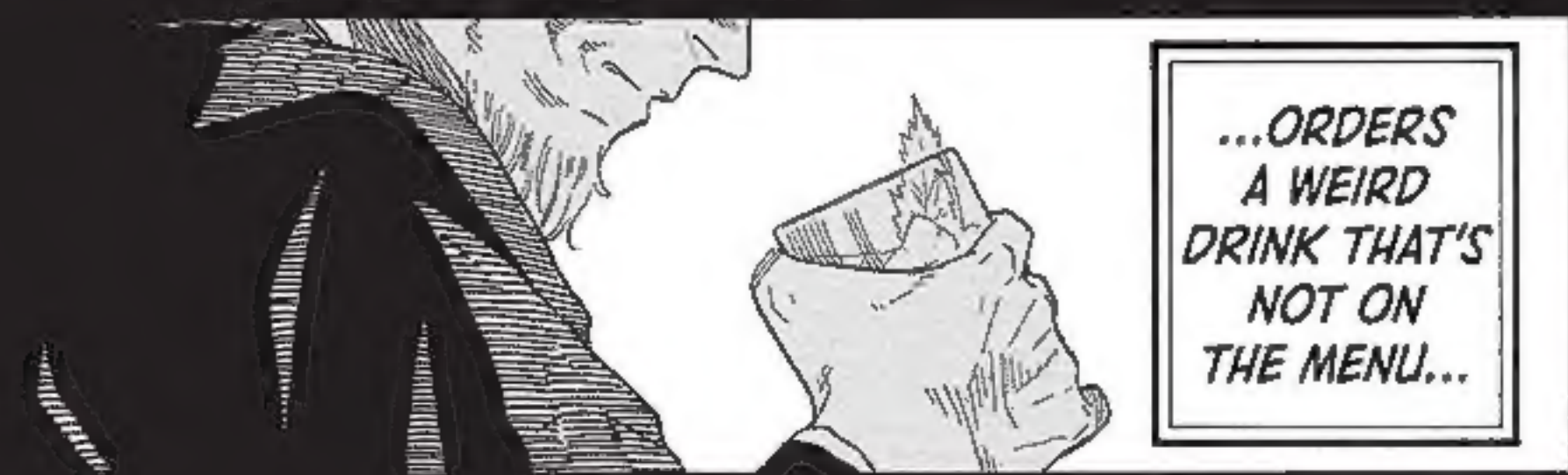


HE'S
HERE
AGAIN.



I HATE
THAT
MAN.









**"IT'S
FINE."**



**BUT IT'S
FINE! IT'LL
BE FINE.**

OKAY?



**THAT'S
MY
MOM'S
MOTTO.**



**IT'S...
FINE.
I'M
FINE...**

**...OR
SHE'S
DYING
FROM A
HANG-
OVER...**



**WHETHER
I'VE
SKINNED
MY KNEE
AT THE
PARK...**

**YOU'RE
FINE...**

...OR WHEN
PEOPLE MAKE
HEARTLESS
COMMENTS...

PSST
SHE
WORKS IN
NIGHT-
LIFE!

HOW
SHAME-
FUL. PSST

...OR WHEN
SHE WAS
FORCED TO
TAKE OVER
THE BAR...



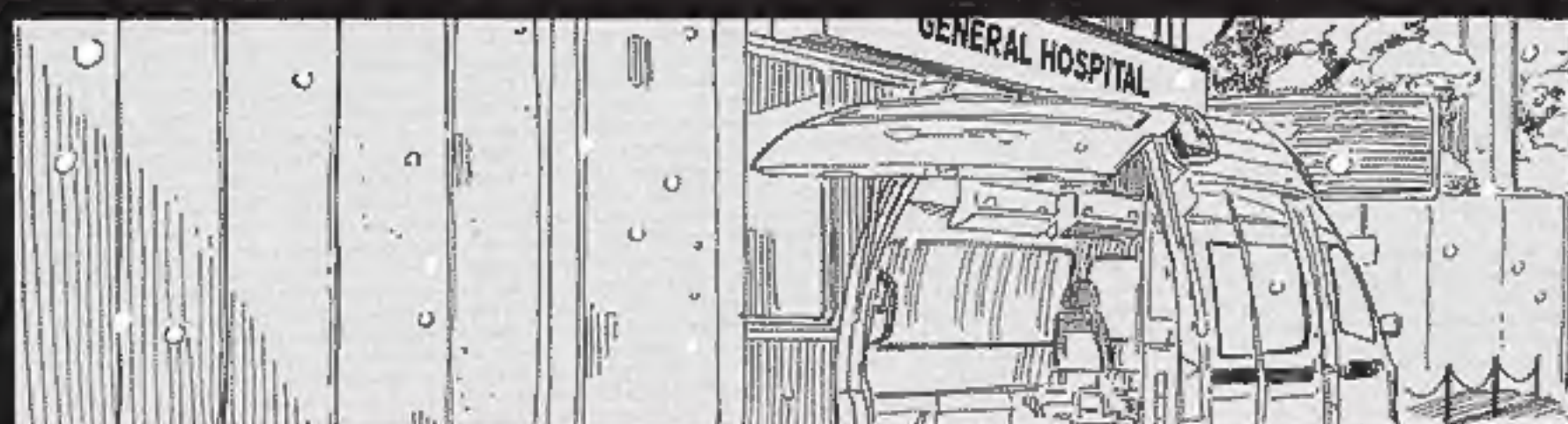
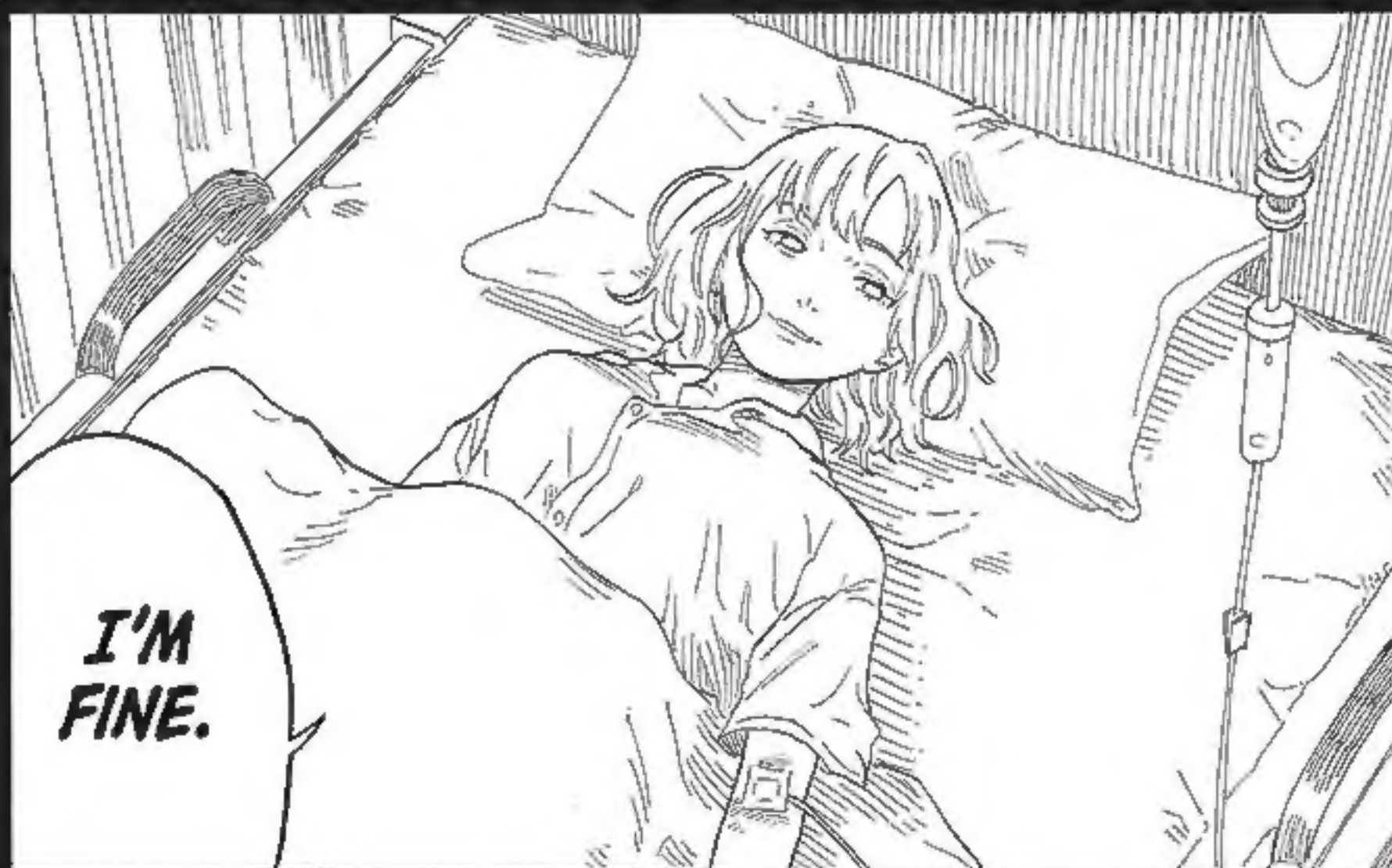
...OR WHEN
MY SO-CALLED
DAD STOPPED
PAYING CHILD
SUPPORT...



IT'S
FINE.









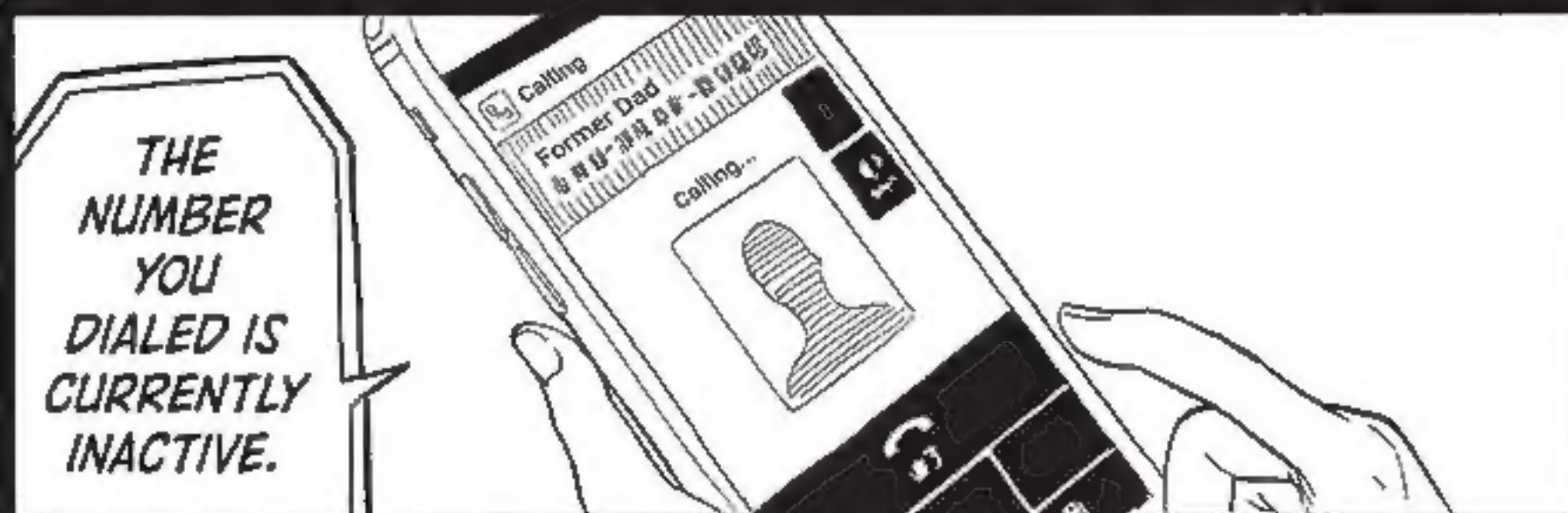
IT'LL
BE FINE...
OKAY?



DON'T
LOOK SO
SAD...

I'M
SORRY,
DEAR.

I LEARNED
SOMETHING
WHEN MY
MOM'S HEALTH
FAILED HER.



THE
NUMBER
YOU
DIALED IS
CURRENTLY
INACTIVE.



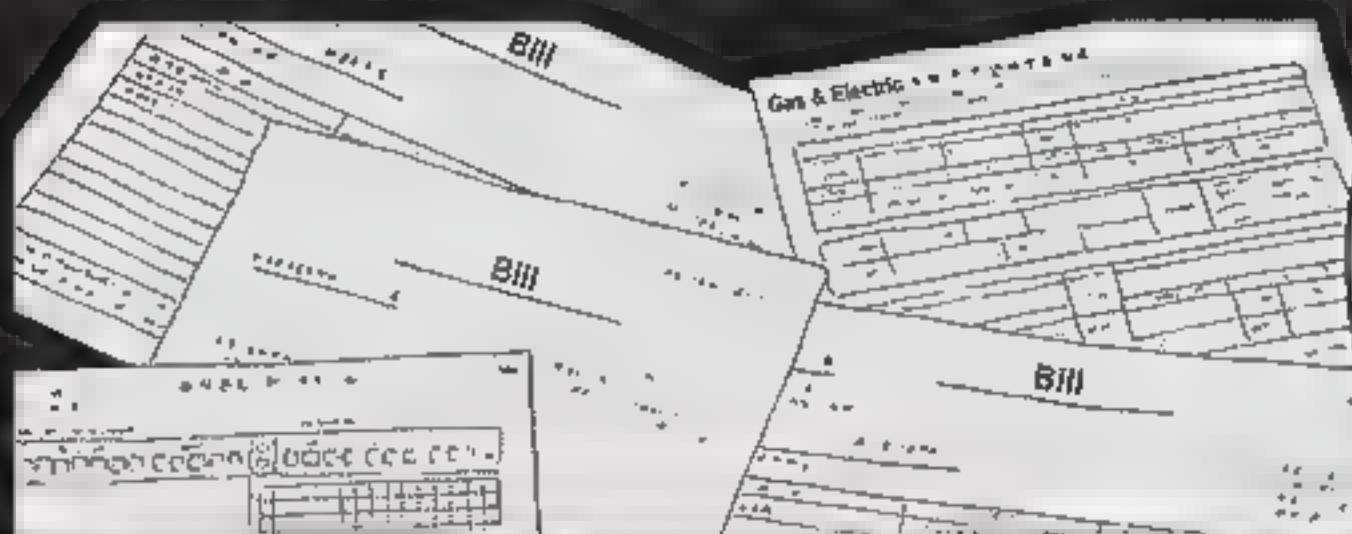
I KNOW
YOU'VE GOT
PROBLEMS TO
DEAL WITH,
BUT WE'RE A
BUSINESS.

BEFORE
THAT, I
THOUGHT
I COULD
HELP HER
WHEN SHE
NEEDED IT.



THAT'S
AMAZING!

WORTH-
LESS
DAD!!

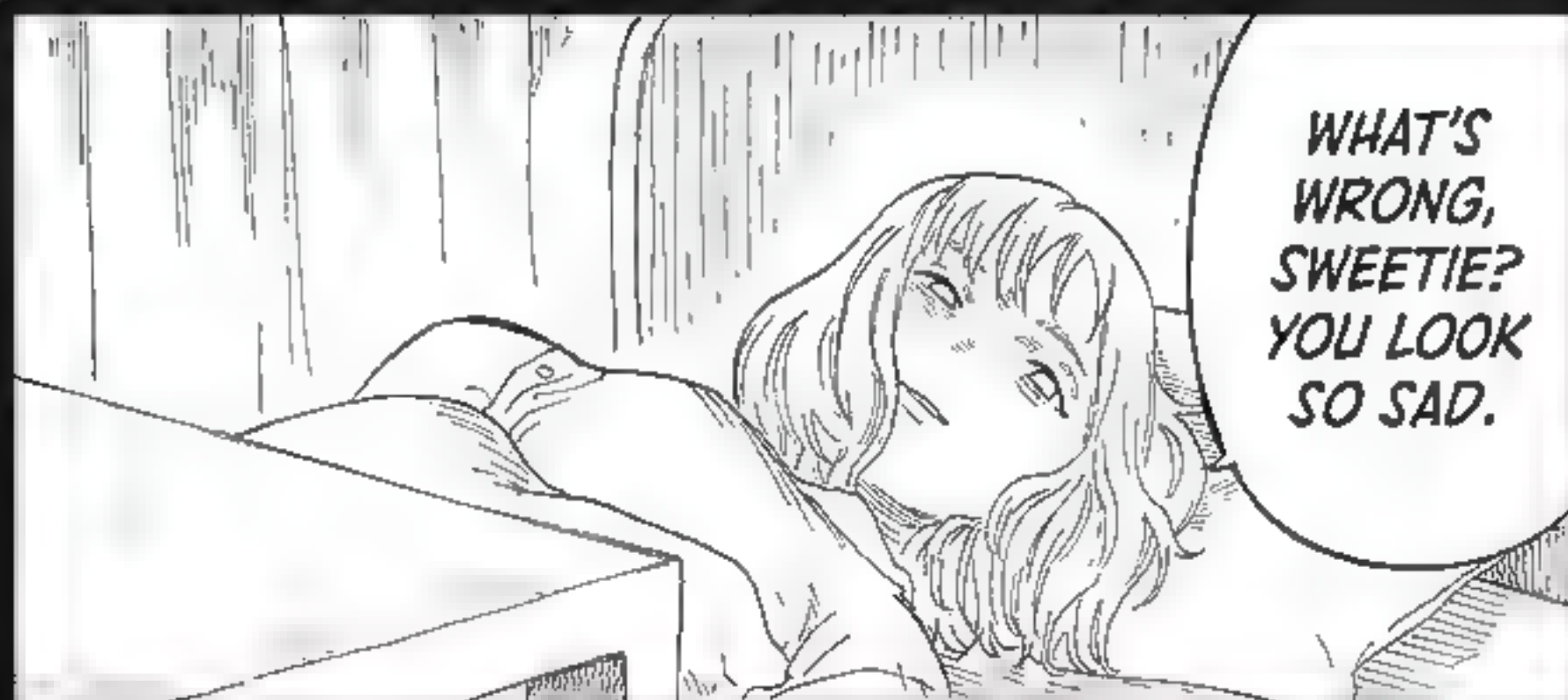


YOU'VE GOT
TO PAY THE
BILLS. THAT'S
JUST A FACT
OF LIFE.

NOT ONLY
COULD
I NOT
PROTECT
HER...

I WAS STILL
A CHILD,
WEAK AND
POWERLESS.

AS IT
TURNED
OUT, I
COULDN'T.



WHAT'S
WRONG,
SWEETIE?
YOU LOOK
SO SAD.



...FROM THE
EXAMPLE
SHE SET...

...I
COULDN'T
EVEN
LEARN...

UH...



SHF

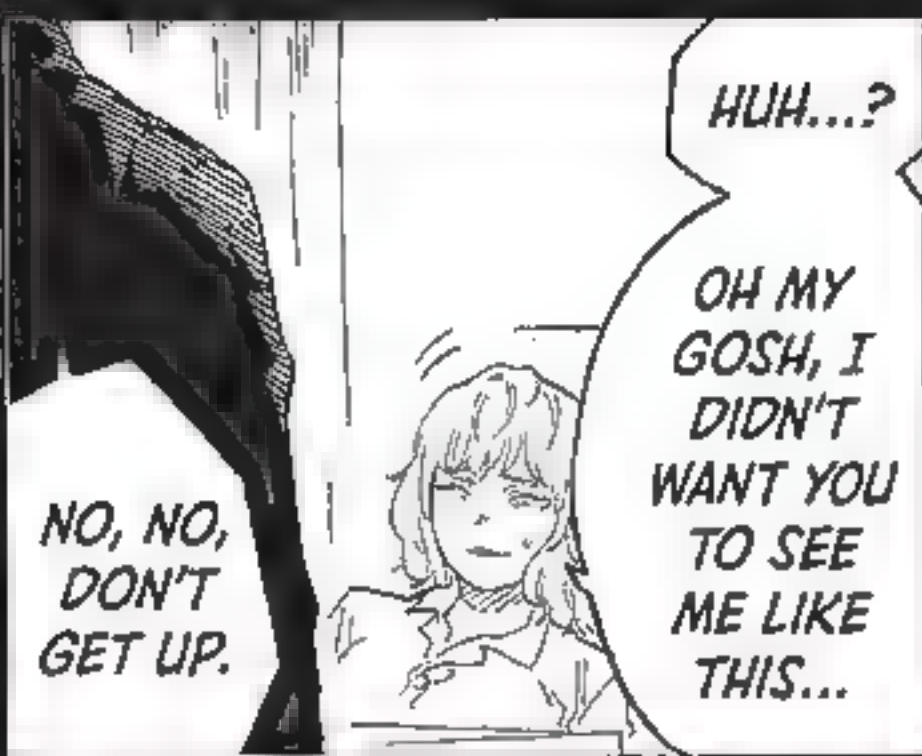
MOM...

I...

AH!



...AND TELL
HER THAT
"IT'S FINE,"
JUST TO
MAKE HER
FEEL
BETTER.





HUH...?

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH I OWE
YOU, BUT THAT
SHOULD COVER
IT. IF THERE'S
ANY EXTRA,
CONSIDER IT
AN ADVANCE
ON MY
NEXT TAB.



HERE.



DON'T
GET THE
WRONG IDEA.
THAT'S NOT
FOR YOU.

FOR ME?
WHY ARE
YOU GIVING
ME SO
MUCH...



I NEED
YOU AROUND
SO I CAN
HAVE MY
FAVORITE
DRINK.

IT'S
FOR THE
GOLDFISH
YOU SERVE
AT THE
BAR.

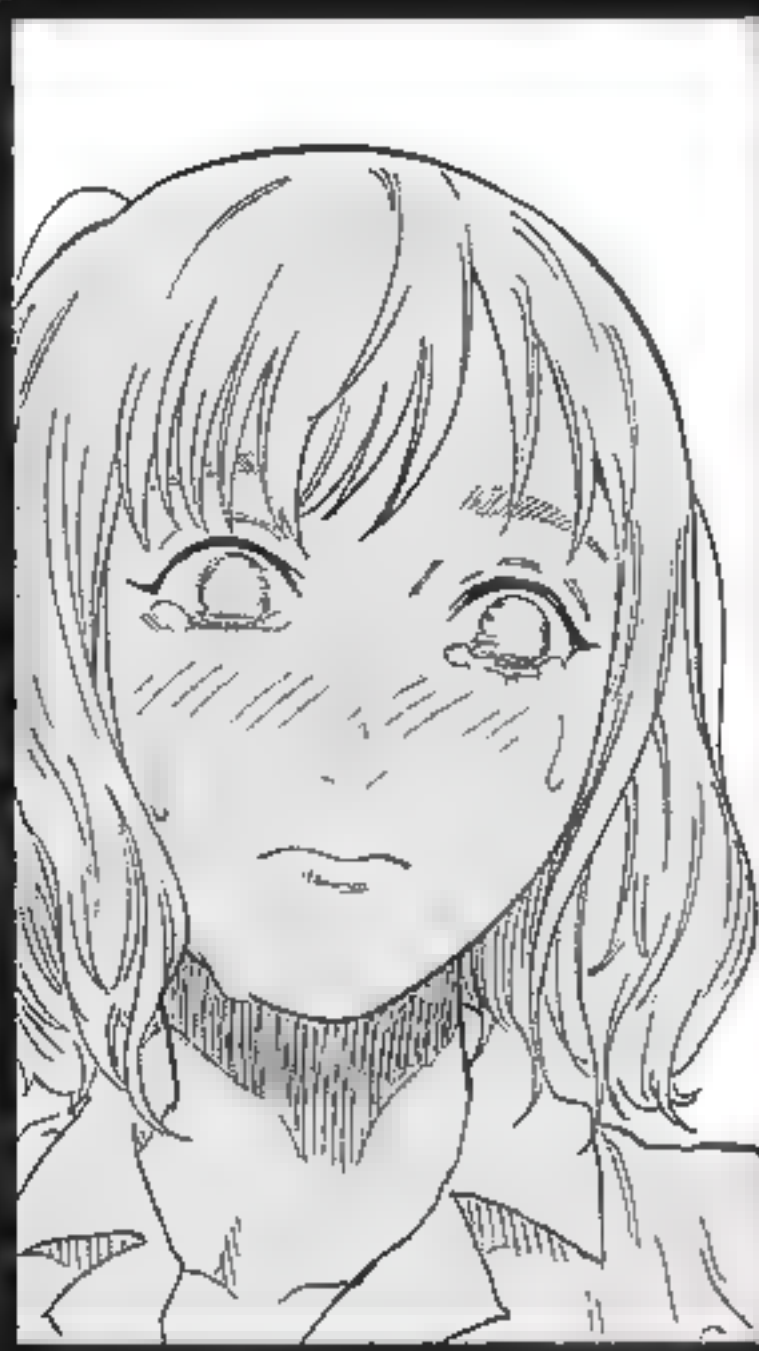


**YOU
LOOK
MUCH
BETTER
THAN
YOU DID
BEFORE.**



**THANK
YOU!**

**THANK
YOU!**



**YOU
SHOULD
BE FINE
NOW.**





HOW
DID
YOU
DO
IT?!

WHAT?
IF YOU
WANT TO
THANK
ME...



WHAT
DID YOU
DO TO
MAKE SO
MUCH
MONEY?!



EXCUSE
ME!



REALLY?
THAT'S
IT?

BUT--!

THAT'S
ALL
THERE IS
TO IT.

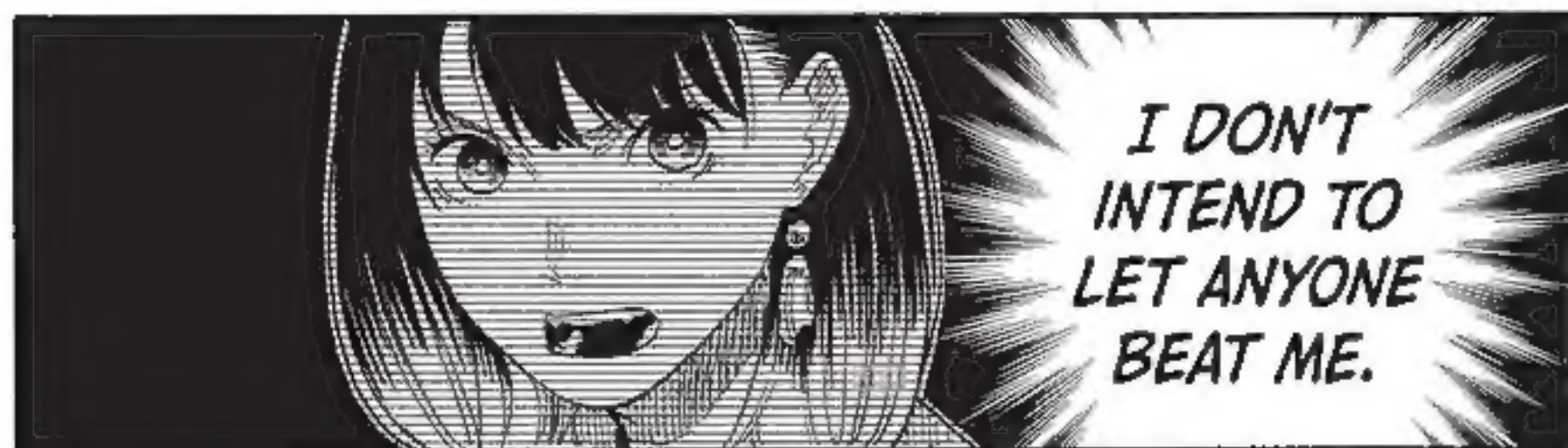
WHAT
DO I DO?
I JUST
SIT ON A
CUSHION
AND TALK.



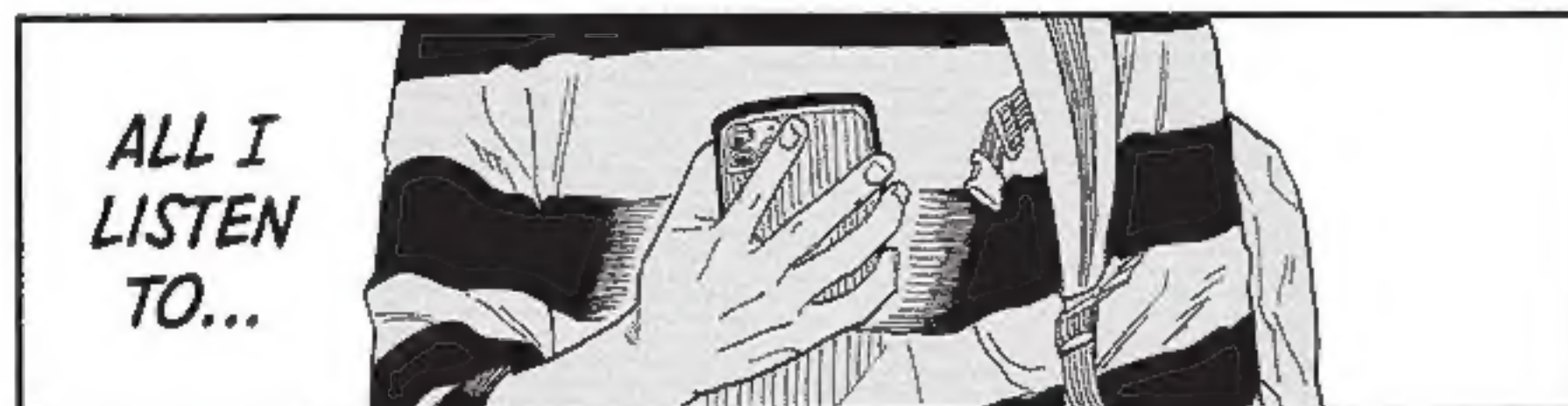
YOU CAN
MAKE GOOD
MONEY DOING
JUST THAT...

YES.





**I DON'T
INTEND TO
LET ANYONE
BEAT ME.**



**ALL I
LISTEN
TO...**

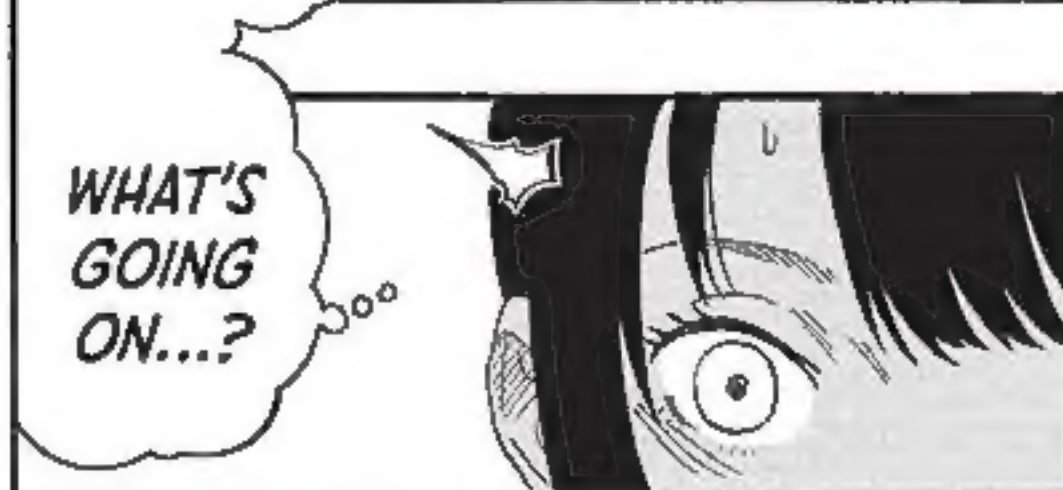


**...IS
THE
ART.**



AND
THAT
WAS...

...THE
FAMILIAR
STORY OF
"HIRABAYASHI."



To be continued!